



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PETS WAIT TO BE REUNITED WITH THEIR OWNERS

Owners May Assume Pets Were Killed; Animals Are Waiting At County Shelters

During and after the recent devastating fires, County animal control officers rescued many animals from the fire and they are being cared for at the Department of Animal Services. The County's three shelters have many different kinds of animals, including dogs, cats, horses, pigs, goats, chickens and geese.

Dawn Danielson, assistant Animal Services Director, said, "Many animal owners may mistakenly believe their animals were killed in the fires. We strongly urge each person who has lost their four- or two-legged or feathered family member to visit one of our three shelters to see if their pet is patiently waiting for them." Many, but not all, of these animals have injuries, some minor, some severe and are being treated by veterinary staff at the shelters or by the generosity of veterinarians in the private sector. The department is holding all animals rescued from the fire for 14 days for the owners, before being made available for adoption to the general public.

The department thanks all the Good Samaritans who helped with the rescue and urges anyone who still has custody of a lost animal to bring it to a shelter. The most efficient way to reunite a lost pet with its caregiver is to have one place of contact, one Web site to check. The lost pet may be brought to one of the County shelters or the County will pick it up and provide veterinary care if needed. If a finder of a lost pet wants to adopt the animal they may place a "Finder's Hold" to ensure they are the first in line if the owner does not come forward.

Anyone searching for a lost pet can call (619) 236-4250 or visit the Animal Services Web site at www.sddac.com, or visit each of the three shelters located at 5480 Gaines St., San Diego, 2481 Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad, and 5821 Sweetwater Road.

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